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## 815 Montgomery Avenue Fort Washington, Pennsylvania 19034

January 10, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft US Department of Justice 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I am writing to express my support for the Department of Justice and Microsoft settlement. This agreement, I believe, was reasonable and fair. Microsoft was reprimanded for what was considered unfair trade practices and Bill Gates has opened up his company far more than I, personally, would have done. However, an agreement was reached, ending a three-year litigation case costing both parties time and money.

I believe it is time to move on and ask that you give your support to the decision. I know there will probably be those who wish to exact more of a punishment, expressing their thought that Microsoft "got off easy", but there will always be those who are never satisfied. In truth, the settlement is very hard on Microsoft. The company will have to share coding with its competitors, allowing them to place their own software packages on Windows. Additionally, Microsoft will agree not to retaliate against companies that use or sell non-Microsoft products.

We need to get our economy moving, not look back to something that has already been decided. Microsoft has helped transform our planet into the "global village". Support the agreement reached. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Philip Gehman

Thelip Gehman

cc: Senator Rick Santorum